

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 COME-00 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06

RSR-01 /062 W

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R 301300

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6480

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT)

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QTE

R 291101Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 8115

INFO RUSBTA/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1382

RUSBAS/AMCONSUL MADRAS 1416

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1694

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: DOCTORS' STRIKE MAHARASHTRA

REF: BOMBAY 1652

1. SUMMARY. STRIKE OF MIDDLE AND LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT  
DOCTORS MAHARASHTRA HOSPITALS ENTERED NEW PHASE WHEN  
REPRESENTATIVES GOM AND STRIKING DOCTORS BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS  
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ON AUGUST 26. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PRODUCED SOME PROGRESS.

CONTINUING DETERIORATION MEDICAL SERVICES, GROWING NUMBER OF SYMPATHY STRIKES BY MEMBERS OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND SUPPORT FOR STRIKING DOCTORS FROM TRADE UNIONS AND LEFT-WING POLITICIANS CONSTITUTE PRESSURES ON GOM TO MOVE CLOSER TO DOCTORS' POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. STRIKE BY 2,500 MIDDLE-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL DOCTORS, INTERNS AND REGISTRARS IN MAHARASHTRA ENTERED 13TH DAY AUGUST 29. NEGOTIATIONS ON SETTLEMENT TERMS BETWEEN MAHARASHTRA ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENT DOCTORS (MARD) AND GOM HEALTH MINISTER RAFIQ ZAKARIA BEGAN AUGUST 26 WITH ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY OF GOI HEALTH MINISTER R. K. KHADILKAR. CHIEF MINISTER NAIK ALSO PARTICIPATED INITIAL TALKS.

3. WITH BACKDROP TIGHT BUDGET FOLLOWING ENORMOUS DROUGHT-RELATED EXPENDITURES AND POSSIBILITY OTHER CATEGORIES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES MAY EMULATE STRIKE SHOULD DOCTORS SUCCEED, GOM ASKING DOCTORS TO RETURN TO WORK ON BASIS ASSURANCE THAT DEMANDS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM APRIL 1974 WHEN NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN LAUNCHED. DOCTORS APPARENTLY AGREED TO POSTPONE ACTUAL FULFILLMENT DEMANDS BUT ARE INSISTING THAT GOM NEGOTIATE IMMEDIATELY EXACT AMOUNTS SALARY INCREASES ALONG WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAM IMPROVE LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS. THIS GOM REFUSING TO DO. TALKS SCHEDULED RESUME EVENING AUGUST 29.

4. MEANWHILE, GESTURES OF SYMPATHY IN FORM OF PUBLICLY VOICED SUPPORT, TEMPORARY STRIKES, MARCHES AND MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS BOYCOTTS CONTINUE TO MOUNT. ON AUGUST 29, THE 250 SENIOR DOCTORS LEFT IN BOMBAY'S GOVERNMENT-RUN HOSPITALS BEGAN THREE DAY STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR JUNIOR COLLEAGUES' DEMANDS. ALSO, ON AUGUST 29, THEY WERE JOINED BY 5,000 PRIVATE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS THROUGHOUT BOMBAY. GOM HAS RESPONDED BY ORDERING UNANNOUNCED NUMBER OF 1500 DOCTORS IN GOM-RUN RURAL MEDICAL SERVICES INTO BOMBAY TO STAFF VACATED POSITIONS. MEDICAL STUDENTS IN LARGE NUMBERS THROUGHOUT MAHARASHTRA ARE BOYCOTTING CLASSES. TRADE UNION SPOKESMEN GENERALLY ARE VOICING SUPPORT OF STRIKE, AS ARE LEFT-WING POLITICIANS. BPCC HAS PUBLICLY URGED A QUICK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTLEMENT. ON AUGUST 26, INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN CALCUTTA THAT MEDICAL PROFESSION WOULD RESORT TO "DIRECT ACTION" IF SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT IS NOT REACHED SOON.

5. COMMENT. BOTH GOM AND MARD HAVE RETREATED FROM INITIAL HARDLINE POSITIONS. SPECTER OF FURTHER DETERIORATION MEDICAL SERVICES IN BOMBAY AND DISLOCATIONS PRODUCED BY

EVER-WIDENING SUPPORT STRIKING DOCTORS RECEIVING CONSTITUTE  
PRESSURES ON GOM TO MOVE CLOSER TO DOCTORS' POSITION.  
BANE  
UNQTE MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973NEWDE10103  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973086/aaaaadtw.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BOMBAY 1652  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DOCTORS' STRIKE MAHARASHTRA  
**TAGS:** ELAB, ACOM, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005